



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2012

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15 ARRESTED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Syracuse, NY—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced the indictment of fifteen (15) individuals in connection with a large cocaine distribution organization in Central New York. Those indicted in the cocaine distribution conspiracy include the following:

WILLIAM VALENTIN, age 32, Syracuse, New York;
ADAM LIDEL, age 41, Mattydale, New York;
TERRELL JONES, age 36, Cicero, New York;
ERIC KELLY, age 33, Cicero, New York;
DAVID TOLONE, age 40, Hannibal, New York;
STEVEN BURGESS, age 36, Syracuse, New York;
JASON ZIEGLER, age 37, East Syracuse, New York;
RICHARD BALLARD, age 31, Mattydale, New York;
JONATHAN BUFFUM, age 33, Syracuse, New York;
JOSEPH BRANDT II, age 38, Syracuse, New York;
NANCY GREENE, age 54, Syracuse, New York;
ERMINIO COLELLA, age 30, North Syracuse, New York;
JASON SARDO, age 38, Syracuse, New York;
JONATHAN MAOR, age 40, North Syracuse, New York; and
TIMOTHY DEARBORN, age 46, Greenfield Center, New York;

All of these individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury with conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute and distributing over 500 grams of cocaine; defendants VALENTIN and BRANDT have also been charged with gun possession charges as well. If convicted, the defendants face a mandatory five year minimum term of imprisonment up to a

maximum of forty years imprisonment, up to a \$5 million fine, and at least four years of supervised release following any period of incarceration.¹

These prosecutions resulted from an investigation undertaken in the spring of 2011 by the Syracuse Resident Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), along with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, and the Syracuse Police Department. The investigation, which included wiretaps on several of the defendants' telephones, revealed this cocaine trafficking organization was responsible for the distribution of approximately five kilograms of cocaine per month in the Central New York area.

To date, investigators have recovered: approximately four kilograms of cocaine (with an estimated street value of over \$500,000.00); seven guns, including two assault rifles; \$55,000.00 in U.S. currency; and drug paraphernalia.

All the defendants except LIDEL and DEARBORN were arrested this morning in connection with the charges in the indictment.

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Carla Freedman, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0672.

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¹The charges announced today are mere allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.